

Serial No.: 10/737,282
Attorney Docket No.: F-748

Patent

REMARKS

1. Status of Claims

Claims 1 and 4-27 were pending in the Application. Applicants have amended claims 1, 4-5, 7, 9-11, 13-17, 19-20, 22 and 25 and canceled claims 6, 8, 12, 18, 21, 26 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants respectfully request entry of the above amendments and consideration of the enclosed remarks. Applicants submit that no new matter is added. The Amendments are submitted solely to place the present application in condition for allowance or in better condition for appeal.

2. Amendments to the Specification

Applicants have amended the Specification to provide the serial number for a co-pending, commonly-assigned patent application, which is incorporated by reference in the Application.

3. Amendments to the Claims

The Examiner objected to Claim 1 for certain informalities. Applicants have amended Claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 9-10, 13-17 and 19 to address the informalities. The Examiner further objected to Claims 8, 18 and 26 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have rewritten Claims 1, 11 and 20 to include the elements from Claims 8, 18 and 26 and any intervening claims that the Examiner found allowable. Accordingly, those claim elements are now written in independent form. In addition, Applicants have amended Claims 13, 17, 22 and 25 to correct the dependency of those claims.

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4. Conclusion Of Remarks

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the claims of this application are now in a condition for allowance and favorable action thereon is requested.

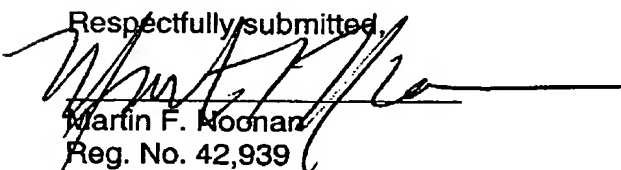
If the Examiner believes that additional issues may be resolved by a telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned attorney for Applicant at (203) 924-3453.

5. Authorization

No fee is believed due with this Amendment. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for the response or credit any overpayment to the Pitney Bowes, Inc. Deposit Account Number 16-1885, Order No. F-748.

In the event that an extension of time or additional extension of time is required to make this response timely filed, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to the Pitney Bowes, Inc. Deposit Account Number 16-1885, Order No. F-748.

Respectfully submitted,



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